



**MEETING MINUTES of the  
IDAHO FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IFSAC) MEETING  
Thursday, January 27, 2011**

*Idaho Department of Lands Office, 3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, Sundance Conference Room  
9:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.*

**Welcome & Introductions—IFSAC Chair, Oscar Baumhoff presiding**

Chair Oscar Baumhoff asked committee members to introduce themselves, including their title. Oscar asked for approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2010, IFSAC meeting. After a short discussion, Mary Terra-Berns made a motion to approve meeting minutes, as written; this motion was seconded by Gordon Harnasch; the motion was unanimously approved.

**Idaho Forest Legacy Program**

Ara Andrea introduced Karen Sjoquist as the new Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Coordinator. Karen began working with the Idaho Department of Lands in November, 2010. Karen gave a short introduction of her personal life, then presented updates on the Idaho Forest Legacy Program. The McArthur Lake Conservation Easement acquisition closed on December 1, 2010. Robyn Miller summarized the closing process. The Bane Creek Neighbors project is due to close during the summer of 2011, working with The Vital Ground Foundation as the sponsoring land trust. IDL would like to have the Bane Creek project close by June 2011, but that date may have to be extended. The North Idaho Timber Communities project (Phase I), also with The Vital Ground Foundation as the sponsoring land trust, was ranked #5 nationally as an Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 awarded project, and is currently waiting for federal funding. The FFY 2012 applications, Boundary Connections and North Idaho Timber Communities (Phase II), ranked highly at the regional level, and Boundary Connections reportedly ranked very well at the national level. Worries about upcoming federal budgets prevent IDL from assuming awards for either project. Dee Sessions discussed what he knew about funding: just a wait-and-see situation. IDL is accepting FFY 2013 Forest Legacy project applications until May 31, 2011. Karen then stated that her current focus is on finding a high-ranking project and researching to find landowners who would be interested.

Karen reported that there were no conservation easement violations reported from any of the annual monitoring that occurred on Idaho FLP easements in 2010. Karen then asked if anyone had any questions. Robyn Miller made comments with regard to how impressed she was with Karen's work; Karen moved into the Legacy position with a lot of pending work to be done, and she did a great job seeing that the 2012 applications were well written and submitted on time. Ara Andrea also said she was impressed with Karen and the quickness at which she picked up all the loose ends and brought everything together for the Forest Legacy Program.

**Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership Workshop**

Robyn Miller spoke about a new effort in Idaho to unite the forestry-based collaboratives from around the state. The Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership focus is to create an organization for collaborative partnerships. In Boise, a workshop took place and partnerships were discussed to ally groups for

restoration projects from public, to counties, to government support. Many different counties, tribes, and city mayors were present. The workshop focused on building support for a collaborative network. Robyn then answered questions with regard to collaboration and public vs. private land needs. Mary Fritz commented that she felt partnerships through collaboratives were a great idea.

### **IFSAC Mission and Purpose Statement Development**

Following a meeting with Oscar, Robyn and Kirk, Ara introduced the need for an IFSAC *Purpose Statement*, essential to define what IFSAC is trying to do within the environment and issues described in Idaho's Statewide Forest Resource Strategy (SFRS). Kirk David led a round table discussion concerning a potential purpose statement. Kirk shared ideas where he felt the statement wording could be pulled from. Overall, the committee agreed that IFSAC's purpose was to facilitate and promote good forest management on family forestlands. Committee members shared ideas on what they felt IFSAC should do:

- Relay to landowners *sources* of cost-share funding available to get on-the-ground work done.
- Facilitate coordination and information-sharing between organizations, agencies and private firms with an interest in family forests.
- Have an integral part in "stewardship roles" in implementing the Idaho SFRS.
- Advise/educate the State Forester on politically-charged issues.
- Serve as a forum for exchange of ideas.
- Provide input to NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee.
- Provide input to UI Extension regarding needed forestland owner information.
- Survey constituents (NIPFs) about what they want/need.
- Generate ideas for State & Private Forestry competitive grants, and prioritize projects/funding targets on NIPF lands, based on current "hot issues" and SFRS.

Kirk then reminded the group that the work of IFSAC should focus on family-owned (nonindustrial private) forestlands, not larger, corporation-owned properties.

Specific things the members would like to move forward with (continuing from the discussion at the October 21 meeting):

1. Information sharing throughout all the forest stewardship-related networks is an important role of IFSAC members. Members should provide feedback from the interest group they represent, including landowners' perspectives
2. Fully utilizing all forestry programs and seeking other avenues of funding.
3. Facilitate and support forestland owner education.
4. Investigate what today's forestland owners' needs are. Get feedback from Idaho's large resource of private landowners to find out what they are concerned about.
5. Gather data/stats/literature to show how the Stewardship Program is getting "good work" accomplished on the ground. Policy makers need to be made aware of the actual number of private landowners there are in Idaho. Through forest protection information, IDL can possibly get access to good data. Mary Terra-Berns, with Fish & Game, stated that her agency has e-mail lists to facilitate these kinds of surveys. They are very effective and efficient in getting private landowner data.

Mary Fritz then refocused the group, and reminded committee members to keep focusing on the purpose of the committee, and for now, to skip the how-tos. She stated that they should look toward the future and determine what they want, make **that** their purpose.

The committee then reviewed the Forest Stewardship Program National Guidelines to get ideas for purpose-statement verbiage. It was suggested that the first sentence of the statement could be taken straight from the National Guidelines, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence could describe how IFSAC communicates with the State Forester. Ara questioned the group as to whether or not they wanted to pull verbiage from older documents to guide them, and she asked if any committee members wanted to change the purpose? Discussion continued on IFSAC prioritizing where members thought the funds, energy and focus should be for serving private landowners, and using SAFR/SFRS as the basis. There also needs to be a focus on what IFSAC **does**: projects, addressing forest stewardship needs, etc.

*Break 10:55 – 11:10*

### **Continued Discussion on IFSAC Mission and Purpose Statement**

Committee members discussed the need for the mission/purpose statement to have an all encompassing sentence (or 2 or 3). Ara reviewed what had been said and asked if her summary was accurate.

**Follow-up Items:** Committee members agreed that at the next (spring) meeting, Ara would have a draft purpose statement developed, based on this meeting's input. IFSAC can then discuss and amend this draft statement, then move forward with developing some short-term, specific goals. Committee members also agreed that, at the spring meeting, there should be development of an agenda *format* and inclusion of agency report-outs. They also agreed that IFSAC members need to study the SFRS before the next meeting, focusing on the Priority Landscape Areas that they know or represent.

### **Member Roles/Representations on IFSAC**

The committee discussed this question: *What are the specialty representations we may need for IFSAC to be as well rounded as it can be?* IFSAC can invite other interests to the committee. Environmental groups and S&W Conservation Districts should be represented on IFSAC. Robyn Miller represents land trusts and Frank Gariglio offered to contact potential members in the S&WCDs. Committee members listed other needed interests: county commissioners (could be invited by RC&D members), (other) tribes, Farm Service Agency, loggers, Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee. It was also suggested that the IFSAC e-mail list be bigger and more inclusive of other interests, outside of the actual membership. IFSAC members can seek feedback from groups they represent, providing an opportunity to let the State Forester know these concerns as well. IFSAC members need to convince more forestland owners to communicate with one another to really get the word out on what actual landowners' needs are. Also, it was pointed out that IFSAC meetings would count toward volunteer time for Master Forest Stewards.

Oscar felt that IFSAC needs an information packet put together to let people know who we are and what we are about, and this packet should include IFSAC's mission statement. This information packet would describe member time commitments, expectations, etc. Any potential members or meeting participants should have information explaining what IFSAC is about. Members agreed that the operating procedures should include provisions that each IFSAC member (or representative) should be responsible

for sending out meeting information and e-mail updates to all of their constituents/peers/like interest. IFSAC needs to get more interest from outside entities. Some committee members expressed that spreading the word and getting more meeting invitations sent would help IFSAC reach its goals more efficiently and effectively (see discussion at bottom of next paragraph for further clarification of this suggestion).

Some committee members had stated that forest industry representation on IFSAC is a must. As mentioned at the last meeting, Oscar restated the need for IDL Fire Bureau representation. He strongly feels IFSAC needs somebody at the meetings who represents fire (hazardous fuels reduction plans, hazard-reduction education for landowners). Dee Sessions tried to steer the committee away from the idea of adding more industry to the committee. Dee feels IFSAC needs to include more landowner committee members. He stated that more private landowners need to attend and less service people; it needs a better mix of representation. Craig then stated that IDL has tried to keep advisory committees limited to about 20 people. Discussion continued on the appropriate size for this committee, and the need for IFSAC to search out **one** good “lead” person to represent a group of people in order to keep the committee number manageable. Tom Davis gave an example of himself, as the Idaho Tree Farm Committee Chair, acting as a bridge between private landowners and IDL, saying that Tree Farm does *interact* with IDL since Ara sits on the Idaho Tree Farm Committee. Discussion continued on the process of being appointed as a voting member of IFSAC (by the IDL Director). Robyn Miller suggested inviting interested landowners to the next meeting just to get a feel for the committee, just as a time to listen and get information. She suggested letting forest landowners listen to what is discussed at IFSAC meetings and then getting feedback from them if what we are doing is relevant to them. It was agreed that there should be an agenda item to “hear” visiting landowners/interests at this next meeting.

*Lunch 12:15 – 12:50*

### **Roles and Responsibilities of IFSAC Officers**

Currently, the officers of IFSAC are the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary. Oscar Baumhoff proceeded to read the roles and responsibilities of these officers from the current operating procedures. Ara (IDL) is the Secretary. Oscar compared the responsibilities of the Chair with what he has been doing and he commented that he felt he has been meeting his responsibilities according to operating procedures. It was also mentioned that the Legacy Subcommittee is active.

Discussion continued on what the officer responsibilities should be, and how the officer roster should look. Different suggestions included electing co-Chairs, creating an outreach-coordinator position, and appointing an outreach task force/subcommittee. It was then suggested that the committee doesn’t want to spread too much out amongst too many members. If IFSAC has an outreach coordinator, it should be for a defined, limited amount of time.

**Follow-up Item:** Mary .Terra-Berns stated that she would look into how Fish & Game does their outreach program and give some feedback on it at the next meeting.

Ara stated that it helped IDL for officer roles to be very specifically defined. Ara said as secretary, she needs IFSAC officers to design and draft an initial agenda for each meeting. Oscar, according to Chair responsibilities, should be developing the agenda. Discussion continued on the need to draft an agenda (for the next meeting) at the end of each IFSAC meeting. The committee then discussed the possibility

of running IFSAC independent of IDL; there is a national guideline describing how advisory committees can be run totally free of a state agency, if desired.

The committee discussed the following officer responsibilities: a call can be sent out to all committee members (by the Chair) that the agenda is being developed, and request agenda ideas and suggestions. The Chair can then draft an initial agenda. Then, everyone has input as to what they want to be relevant at the meeting. Each committee member can take an active part with what concerns them through sending in ideas for the agenda.

(Off-topic discussion) John DeGroot suggested that IFSAC could have the meetings at different sites rather than having it at IDL in Coeur d'Alene every time. A diverse group of meeting places could provide an even broader range of more relevant information to committee members, and better show what different area needs are. Some meeting sites could even offer a field tour or field day to advise members on what is happening at different sites. Mary Terra-Berns suggested using Fish & Game sites for meeting places when needed. Suggestions were made to move meetings around the state. Tom Davis pointed out that funds may not be available to reimburse members for multiple outings. Kirk suggested that IFSAC meetings could take place around other landowner meetings that all the members are at anyway, to save funds. The economy has changed funding abilities for everyone and combining meetings can cause too many days to be spent and thus costing extra lodging and food expenses. It all depends on the member, what area they are from, and their economic status. Robert Barkley said few members have been able to see the actual changes on the ground that have resulted from Stewardship Program activities. He felt that members would like to see the actual activity sites, rather than just a picture presentation. Ara stated it would be great to see other people that are involved in forest stewardship activities by going to observe in different areas.

### **2011 IFSAC Officer Candidates**

IFSAC members reviewed the operational procedures of voting on new officers. They also discussed voting-procedure options (in-person voting at the meeting, or anonymous online voting). Members discussed the importance of the committee having a succession plan and a limited amount of time for an officer to serve. It was suggested that one of the roles of the Vice-Chair is willingness to ascend into the Chair position. Only voting members are allowed to vote for officer positions; no ex-officio members are allowed to vote.

Mary Fritz, Kirk David and Gordon Harnasch suggested getting a slate of candidates for the next (spring) meeting. Ara asked if the nomination-subcommittee would meet or do it via e-mail. Kirk David said it depended on when the spring meeting would take place; the subcommittee may not be ready in time to have a roster at the spring meeting. It was then pointed out that voting on new officers and making changes to the operating procedures are two totally different issues. Changes to operating procedures can be e-mailed 30 days prior to meetings separately from the voting decision. The committee then discussed whether the new Chair would take over for the fall meeting. If voting is done on line then the new Chair (and all members) will know right away. Possibilities discussed: the new Chair can run the fall meeting, or the new Chair can be introduced at the fall meeting and only partially chair this meeting.

Robyn Miller wanted to interject that she feels there are benefits to the Chair being a landowner so the rules should not be set in stone that the Vice Chair should be voted as one to take over the Chair position. Maybe open the Chair seat up to the best candidate. Karen Sjoquist asked if there could there

be co-Chairs where one Chair is a landowner and one is from another agency. The committee decided that any valid membership interest should be able to lead this committee; the Chair position should not be restricted.

### **Collaborative Work with other State & Private Forestry Advisory Groups**

Members discussed how they could best work with the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group. Members felt that it was best to have one or two people go to other advisory councils meetings and bring back information. Oscar Baumhoff felt the consensus was that IFSAC members visit another meeting, share IFSAC's activities, and get information on what they are doing. The goal is to "connect the dots" with all the different groups and meetings going on so IFSAC is aware of what is going on in Idaho regarding land-management projects/decisions. The Urban advisory group is getting information from other groups, but have not been advised on many Stewardship issues. Craig Foss, Ara Andrea and Dave Stephenson are going to have a meeting with Craig Glazier (National Fire Plan Coordinator) to discuss integration of the three advisory committees. Dave Stephenson is attending an Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group meeting today to share information. Chris Schnepf talked about the Land, Water and Fire annual conference he used to participate in, how each group seemed to want to talk about its own area, so they stopped meeting altogether. Ara asked if any members were interested in being the IFSAC liaisons to the other advisory groups. Which members have the best connections and/or best links? Mary Fritz gave an example of a current project in the Silver Valley where forest health treatments and hazard treatments are taking place in collaboration with and alongside the County Wildfire Protection Plan. When doing projects in these priority landscapes, a coordinated effort is needed, as is being done in the Silver Valley landscape. Spending is becoming more strategic, focused with fire projects, and thus allowing IDL to expand stewardship knowledge to landowners when projects are worked on together.

**Follow-up Items:** Robyn Miller asked if John DeGroot could check with the Fire Plan Working Group rep. (Jeff Handel) in his area and get fire information to share at the next IFSAC meeting. Also, Dave Stephenson should be asked to share information from his attendance at the NFP Working Group advisory meeting.

### **Next Spring Meeting Date and Location**

Frank Gariglio suggested having the next (spring) meeting in Lewiston. Kirk asked if Frank, Clark Christiansen and John DeGroot would be willing to put a meeting together with a field tour in the afternoon. Discussion resulted in the meeting date being set on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the Lewiston area, with a morning meeting and afternoon field tour. John, Frank and Clark will plan the meeting location and field tour logistics.

Robyn Miller noted that a recommendation had been made to recruit landowners. Some members suggested inviting guests that are in the meeting area. **Follow-up Item:** John, Clark and Frank will invite landowners they know to come to the Stewardship Meeting in their area.

Chris Schnepf said he would help Ara with a one-page committee member position description that can be given to potential members.

Gordon Harnasch offered a timber-tax reminder that timber land tax options will change next year beginning January 1, 2012.

Kirk David wanted committee confirmation authorizing him and the subcommittee to find new officer candidates. The committee confirmed that they would like the subcommittee to seek potential new officers. ***Follow-up Item:*** Subcommittee members will provide a status report on potential new officer candidates at the next meeting.

Oscar Baumhoff went around the table to make sure everyone had a chance for one last comment. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kirk David and seconded by Oscar Baumhoff. There was unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at **3:09 p.m.**

#### **List of Attendees**

Oscar Baumhoff, member (Chair)  
Robyn Miller, member (Vice-Chair)  
Robert Barkley, guest  
Frank Gariglio, member  
Clark Christiansen, member  
G. Kirk David, member  
Dee Sessions, member  
Dale Dimico, guest  
Tom Davis, member  
John DeGroot, member  
Gordon Harnasch, member  
Mike Wolcott, member  
Randy Brooks, guest  
Chris Schnepf, member  
Mary Terra-Berns, member  
Mary Fritz, guest  
Karen Sjoquist, guest  
Craig Foss, ex-officio  
Ara Andrea, member (Secretary)  
Chanda Johnson, guest

Idaho Forest Owners Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
Idaho Department of Lands, Ponderosa Area  
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
ID Dept. of Lands, Craig Mt. Supervisory Area  
Idaho Tree Farm  
United States Forest Service  
IFOA  
Consulting Forester  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Kootenai County  
Consulting Forester  
UI Extension  
UI Extension  
Idaho Fish & Game  
Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d’Alene  
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